

Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-12

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PRS-01 DOE-11 OES-07 SS-15 USIA-06 DOEE-00 ACDE-00
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FM USMISSION GENEVA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5229
INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 GENEVA 01283

CW MESSAGE NO. 14

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PARM US UR
SUBJECT: US-USSR NEGOTIATIONS ON CHEMICAL WEAPONS, ROUND
SEVEN: SECOND DRAFTING GROUP MEETING, JANUARY 18, 1978

REF.: GENEVA 712

1. SUMMARY: DRAFTING GROUP MET AFTERNOON JANUARY 18 TO
CONTINUE DISCUSSING THE SCOPE OF THE PROHIBITION, IN
PARTICULAR, THE QUESTION OF IRRITANTS. US DEL MADE
DETAILED PRESENTATIONS ON RIOT CONTROL CHEMICALS AND
"IMPORTANT PRECURSORS AND IMPORTANT LETHAL AND OTHER
HIGHLY TOXIC CHEMICALS" AND RESPONDED TO SOVIET QUESTIONS.
END SUMMARY.

2. THE SECOND MEETING OF THE DRAFTING GROUP ON CHEMICAL
WEAPONS (CW) WAS HELD WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON, JANUARY 18,
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AT THE US MISSION.

3. AT OUTSET OF SECOND DRAFTING GROUP SESSION, A.R.
TURRENTINE (ALT. HEAD OF US DEL) REAFFIRMED US UNDER-
STANDING THAT DRAFTING GROUP WOULD CONTINUE TO DRAFT IN
NEAR-TREATY LANGUAGE, ON AD REFERENDUM BASIS, LEAVING
QUESTION OF FORM OF JOINT INITIATIVE OPEN; L.A. NAOUMOV

(SOVIET DEL) AGREED.

4. J.LEONARD (US EXPERT) ILLUSTRATED APPLICATION OF US-PROPOSED CRITERIA FOR RIOT CONTROL CHEMICALS (RCC) PRESENTED DURING JANUARY 13 DRAFTING GROUP SESSION (SEE REFTEL, PARA 3), USING THE AGENTS CS AND CN AS EXAMPLES AND STRESSING THAT AN IRRITANT MUST MEET ALL FOUR CRITERIA TO BE CLASSIFIED AS A RCC. SOVIET DEL ARGUED THAT US-PROPOSED TOXICITY CRITERION WOULD COMPLICATE DIFFERENTIATION BETWEEN SUBSTANCES TO BE PROHIBITED AND SUBSTANCES TO BE ALLOWED AND STATED THEIR BELIEF THAT THE GENERAL PURPOSE CRITERION SHOULD BE THE BASIS.

5. SOVIET EXPERT (SOKDLSKY) EXPRESSED CONFUSION AT US USE OF THE TERMS "IRRITANTS" AND "RIOT CONTROL CHEMICALS" IN SAME CONTEXT AND ASKED IF RIOT CONTROL "CHEMICALS" WERE ALSO CLASSIFIED AS "IRRITANTS". LEONARD RESPONDED THAT RCC WERE CLASSIFIED AS IRRITANTS AND THAT THE TERM "RIOT CONTROL CHEMICAL" IS APPLIED ONLY TO THOSE IRRITANTS USED IN RIOT CONTROL AND LAW ENFORCEMENT. SOVIET DEL WAS ALSO INTERESTED IN HOW THE US HAD DETERMINED THE LIMIT OF FIFTEEN MINUTES FOR RECOVERY OF NORMAL FUNCTIONING AFTER EXPOSURE TO RCC--"WHY NOT FIVE MINUTES OR TEN?" LEONARD EXPLAINED THAT FIFTEEN MINUTES WAS MERELY WHAT THE US HAD CONSIDERED A REASONABLE LIMIT FOR RECOVERY, BUT WAS BY NO MEANS AN ABSOLUTE AND THAT SOVIET VIEWS AND CONFIDENTIAL

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SUGGESTIONS ON THIS POINT WOULD BE WELCOMED.

6. SOKOLSKY ASKED IF DIVIDING IRRITANTS INTO TWO CATEGORIES: THOSE TO BE PROHIBITED AND THOSE TO BE PERMITTED ONLY ON THE BASIS OF WHETHER OR NOT THEY CURRENTLY EXIST IN NATIONAL ARSENALS WAS A RELIABLE METHOD. HE POINTED OUT, USING THE EXAMPLE OF A PAST CAMPAIGN IN THE UK AGAINST CS BECAUSE OF ITS ALLEGED CARCINOGENIC PROPERTIES, THAT SOME STATES MAY WELL HAVE A SUBSTANCE IN THEIR ARSENALS WHICH WAS USED FOR RIOT CONTROL BUT WHICH MANY NOW BELIEVE TO BE TOO DANGEROUS OR INJURIOUS FOR SUCH USE. US DEL DEFERRED RESPONSE TO LATER DRAFTING GROUP SESSION.

7. A BRIEF CONTROVERSY OVER GENERAL PURPOSE CRITERION VERSUS US-PROPOSED CRITERIA FOR RCC ENSUED. SOVIET DEL INSISTED THAT THE GENERAL PURPOSE CRITERION, SUPPLEMENTED BY THE SAFETY FACTOR (I.E., RATIO OF THE LETHAL AND INCAPACITATING DOSES), COULD BE APPLIED TO IRRITANTS AND RCC. US DEL EXPLAINED THAT RCC WOULD BE EXCLUDED FROM THE PROHIBITION AND, THEREFORE, NOT SUBJECT TO THE GENERAL PURPOSE CRITERION. ADDITIONALLY, TURRENTINE SAID

STATES WOULD BE REQUIRED TO DECLARE RCCS IN CURRENT USE
AND THAT NEW RCC WHICH MIGHT BE DEVELOPED WOULD BE
REQUIRED TO MEET THE FOUR, US-PROPOSED CRITERIA. SOVIET
DEL THEN ASKED HOW ONE COULD MAKE STATES DECLARE THEIR
RCC AND WHETHER OR NOT PERMITTING RCC WOULD ALLOW STATES
TO MAINTAIN SUBSTANCES IN THEIR ARSENALS WHICH WOULD BE
OTHERWISE PROHIBITED. US DEL INDICATED THAT THE CONVEN-
TION SHOULD PROVIDE FOR STATES DECLARATIONS ON RCC FOR
CONFIDENCE BUILDING PURPOSES AND ADDED THAT, IN THE US
VIEW, SUCH DECLARATIONS WOULD NOT INVOLVE A LARGE NUMBER
OF DIFFERENT RCC. IN CONCLUDING REMARKS ON THIS ISSUE,
TURRENTINE EXPRESSED HOPE THAT, DURING THE DRAFTING WORK
ON SCOPE, THE US DEL WOULD BE ABLE TO SHOW HOW RCC COULD
BE EXCLUDED FROM THE PROHIBITION WITHOUT DAMAGING THE
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GENERAL PURPOSE CRITERION OR LEAVING A LOOPHOLE IN THE

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 GENEVA 01283

TREATY.

8. R. MIKULAK (US EXPERT) ELABORATED US PROPOSAL FOR

BRIEF LISTS OF "IMPORTANT PRECURSORS" AND "IMPORTANT LETHAL AND OTHER HIGHLY TOXIC CHEMICALS" TO BE DRAWN UP BY THE CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE FOR USE IN INFORMATION EXCHANGES AND FOR VERIFICATION PURPOSES. US DEL PROVIDED SOVIET SIDE WITH LISTS OF "IMPORTANT" PRECURSORS AND "IMPORTANT" LETHAL AND OTHER HIGHLY TOXIC CHEMICALS, WHICH DEL EMPHASIZED WERE "SIMPLY ILLUSTRATIVE...AND SHOULD NOT BE CONSIDERED AS PROPOSALS." MIKULAK POINTED OUT THAT THE PRECURSOR LIST WOULD CONTAIN PRECURSORS WHICH ARE USED COMMERCIALY AND COULD BE DIVERTED TO CHEMICAL WEAPONS PURPOSES AND LISTED THE CRITERIA WHICH A PRE-CURSOR WOULD HAVE TO MEET IN ORDER TO BE CONSIDERED AN "IMPORTANT" PRECURSOR:

(A) IT CAN BE CONVERTED IN RELATIVELY FEW CHEMICAL STEPS TO A PRECURSOR, OR TO A LETHAL OR OTHER HIGHLY TOXIC
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CHEMICAL, WHICH IS USEFUL PRIMARILY FOR CHEMICAL WEAPONS PURPOSES;

(B) IT CANNOT EASILY BE SUBSTITUTED OR REPLACED BY ANOTHER PRECURSOR USED COMMERCIALY; AND

(C) DIVERSION OF A SIGNIFICANT FRACTION OF COMMERCIAL PRODUCTION WOULD BE REQUIRED TO OBTAIN A MILITARILY IMPORTANT QUANTITY OF A LETHAL OR OTHER HIGHLY TOXIC CHEMICAL.

MIKULAK SAID LETHAL AND OTHER HIGHLY TOXIC CHEMICALS WOULD BE CONSIDERED "IMPORTANT" IF:

(A) THEY ARE CURRENTLY IN CHEMICAL WEAPONS STOCKPILES OR HAVE BEEN IN THE RECENT PAST; OR

(B) THEY ARE CLOSE TO THE SUPER-TOXIC CATEGORY (I.E., LCT50 IN THE RANGE 2,000 - 5,000 MG-MIN/M3 OR LD50

(SC) IN THE RANGE 0.5 - 1.0 MG/KG AND ARE PRODUCED IN TON QUANTITIES.

MIKULAK STATED THAT THE US BELIEVED IT WOULD BE APPROPRIATE TO INCLUDE OUR CRITERIA FOR BOTH "IMPORTANT PRECURSORS" AND "IMPORTANT LETHAL AND HIGHLY TOXIC CHEMICALS" IN THE CONVENTION AS GUIDANCE FOR THE CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE. SOVIET DEL RESERVED COMMENTS ON US PRESENTATION ON "IMPORTANT PRECURSORS" AND "IMPORTANT LETHAL AND OTHER HIGHLY TOXIC CHEMICALS" FOR A LATER DRAFTING GROUP SESSION.

9. NEXT MEETING OF THE DRAFTING GROUP WAS SET FOR AFTERNOON, JANUARY 19. VANDEN HEUVEL

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